

REMARKS

The Office Action dated July 25, 2006 has been received and its contents carefully noted. By the above actions, claims 1, 3, and 4 are now pending in the application. Specifically, claim 1 is amended to include the limitation of claim 6, which is now canceled. No new matter has been added. Support for the Amendments is provided in the original claims, Figures 1-9, and related text of the specification.

In view of these actions and the following remarks, reconsideration of this application is now requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1, 3, and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. According to the Examiner, "said inclined surfaces having the same shape as an end blade of a drill for forming the inlet and the outlet," as recited in base claim 1, is a method of making. Therefore, the Examiner asserts that claim 1 as well as claims 3 and 6, which depend on claim 1, are indefinite because they claim both an apparatus and steps for making the apparatus. Amended claim 1 no longer recites "said inclined surfaces having the same shape as an end blade of a drill for forming the inlet and the outlet." Thus, in view of this amendment, the Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection has been overcome. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is in order and is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 3, and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Patent 2001241808 to Fukuda et al. In view of the amendment to independent claim 1, the Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection has been overcome. Claim 1 now recites the subject matter of dependent claim 6, which the Examiner has found to be allowable. (See Office Action, page 3, lines 13-15.) In particular, claim 1 now recites "a length between start portions of the inclined surfaces of the inlet and the outlet and the center of a through hole of the body through which the rod goes satisfies the following formula: $0 \leq L \leq 4.5 \text{ mm}$." Therefore, because amended claim 1 contains the allowable subject matter, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 is in order and is respectfully requested. In addition,

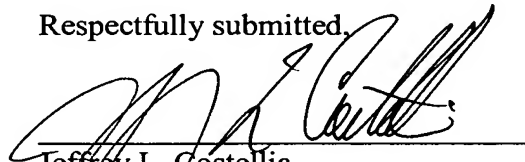
Applicant respectfully submits that dependent claims 3 and 4 are allowable because they depend on what is now allowable base claim 1.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 6 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The allowable subject matter of claim 6 has been incorporated into base claim 1, and claim 6 has been canceled. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the objection to dependent claim 6 has been rendered moot. Withdrawal of the objection to claim 6 is in order and is respectfully requested.

Therefore, the present application is now believed to be in condition for allowance. However, should the Examiner find some issue to remain unresolved, or should any new issues arise, which could be eliminated through discussions with Applicant's representative, then the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone in order that further prosecution of this application can thereby be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,



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